

**PROP 81** CALIFORNIA READING AND LITERACY IMPROVEMENT AND  
PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION  
BOND ACT OF 2006. ★ ★ ★

**ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 81**

81

- *Proposition 81 strengthens the partnership between local schools and libraries.*

Millions of our friends and neighbors suffer silently from functional illiteracy. They are unable to read and perform daily life skills like paying bills, understanding instructions on medicine bottles or workplace safety manuals.

Illiteracy often passes from one generation to the next. Businesses suffer from productivity losses and lower quality products. Without basic literacy skills, good-paying jobs are simply out of reach for many.

Illiteracy is not limited by age, race, gender, or geography. Over three million native English-speaking Californians are functionally illiterate.

Libraries and schools are working together to educate our youth and provide literacy programs to adults and families to reverse this trend.

- *Local libraries are vital to education, provide a safe place for children, and serve the disabled.*

Libraries provide critical literacy and job skill improvement programs for children and adults. They are a safe place for students to study and complete homework assignments. For many, they are the only place to study and use computers to compete in today's information economy. Libraries also provide large print books, books on tape, and other services for people with disabilities.

- *Libraries are underfunded and in disrepair.*

Skyrocketing library use is causing an already underfunded system to rapidly deteriorate. Many communities have no local libraries, despite significant local population growth.

This makes it difficult to take advantage of important children's reading programs, student homework centers, services for seniors and the disabled, and literacy programs.

A 2003 needs assessment, conducted by the California State Library, concludes there are more than 500 public library building projects needed in the next five years.

- *Proposition 81 is not a tax increase.*

By using state bond money for renovating or building libraries, more local funds will be available for expanding children's reading programs, improving book collections, providing services for seniors and people with disabilities, and increasing literacy efforts.

- *State pays 65%—local government pays 35%.*

While this effort will not fund all our library needs, approved projects combine both state bond money (65% of project costs) and local funding (35%), maximizing the effectiveness of these critical resources. Previously approved projects between libraries and schools are targeted for priority funding. Most of the new projects funded by this bond money will also be school/library partnerships.

- *Proposition 81 puts money into vital needs, not administrative overhead.*

By law, local governments *cannot* use one penny of this bond money for administrative costs.

Libraries *can* build homework centers for students, expand literacy centers and facilities for reading programs, and upgrade electrical and telecommunications systems to accommodate computers and increased Internet access for students, people with disabilities, and adult learners.

- *By strengthening the partnership between libraries and schools, Proposition 81 will be an important part of achieving California's literacy goals and strengthening our entire educational system.*

*Please join us. Vote Yes on Proposition 81.*

**JACQUELINE JACOBBERGER**, President  
League of Women Voters of California

**HENRY L. LACAYO**, State President  
Congress of California Seniors

**MARY BERGAN**, President  
California Federation of Teachers

**REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 81**

Didn't we say that the supporters of Proposition 81 would tell you how much they needed your money? As we said, they would claim that they don't have enough money, and only this money would save libraries in this state.

What happened to the \$300 million loan we gave them in 2000, just six short years ago? How did they spend that money? If you go back and read their arguments from that time, they said exactly the same thing that they are saying now.

The problem is the politicians have refused to make libraries a priority. Today, state spending is \$43 billion more than it was just 7 short years ago. Could the state use just two percent of that money to pay for library improvements?

Yes, they could, but that means the politicians would have to take the money from their pet projects, like welfare, free health care, and reduced college tuition for illegal aliens, and give it to libraries.

Why would they do that, however, if we just keep letting them borrow the money for the services we want, and letting them spend our tax dollars on their pet projects?

Voting against this bond is *not* a vote against libraries. It is a vote against free spending politicians who spend their money on candy, and buy meat and bread with the credit card.

We will either say no now, or face bankruptcy very soon. Join us and say no.

**ASSEMBLYMAN RAY HAYNES**, Member  
California State Assembly

**JON COUPAL**, President  
Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

**LEW UHLER**, President  
National Tax Limitation Committee